

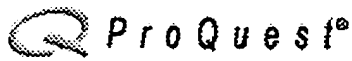
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 ,  , 
**Envirofacts revisited**

*Thomas M Parris*. **Environment**. Washington: May 1999. Vol.41, Iss. 4; pg. 3, 1 pgs

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 Author(s): [Thomas M Parris](#)  
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**Abstract** (Document Summary)

Parris discusses the **Envirofacts Warehouse** (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro>) Web site, which is a compilation of the EPA's core databases.

**Full Text** (639 words)

Copyright Heldref Publications May 1999

Nearly three years ago, this column reviewed the **Envirofacts Warehouse** (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro>), a Web-accessible compilation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) core databases. At that time, I praised the site as a "substantial leap forward in providing the public access" to these databases but also noted that much more could be done. In particular, I suggested that the site integrate data from the Integrated Risk Information System (<http://www.epa.gov/iris/>), the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (<http://www.epa.gov/airs/airs.html>), the Storage and Retrieval System for Water and Biological Monitoring Data (<http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/STORET/>), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's ToxFAQs (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqf.html>). Since then, EPA has been hard at work incorporating many of these suggestions and others. This article revisits **Envirofacts** for a much deserved second look.

The most obvious improvement is that the site now provides access to a much more complete set of EPA's core datasets. It contains detailed information on air pollution, chemical names and safety, grants, hazardous wastes, regulated facilities, safe drinking water, Superfund sites, toxic chemical releases, and water discharge permits. In addition, the **Envirofacts** team has greatly increased the utility of the data by improving the user interface. Enhancements include the ability to generate detailed maps of specific facilities or other regions of interest and

integration of information across individual databases.

By way of example, assume that you are interested in learning about pollution in your community. You can produce a map of EPA-regulated facilities in your area using the new Maps on Demand service. The BasinInfo, CountyInfo, and ZipInfo functions generate detailed maps of specific water basins, counties, and zip codes showing the locations of regulated facilities, drinking water supplies, roads, streams, schools, and hospitals, along with basic demographics. An optional companion report provides a brief description of each facility that can be used in subsequent Envirofacts queries. The Query Mapper function is more general. With it, you can map an arbitrary group of regulated facilities based on the facility's name (or identification code), location, and standard industrial classification.

Once you have basic information about your community, you can use Envirofacts to get detailed information on specific facilities. A good place to start is the Facility Information query, which scans all of the Envirofacts databases for information about facilities based on name, identification code, location, standard industrial classification, and regulatory program. The result is a sophisticated hypertext report the top portion of which gives basic facts about the facilities in question. From there, you can click on the facility identification code to obtain a report that summarizes information from all of the relevant regulatory programs. Most chemical names are linked to detailed descriptions, safety information, and fact sheets from a large number of sources, including EPA's Integrated Risk Information System; the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Public Health Statements; and the Environmental Defense Fund's Chemical Scorecard. You can also ask the system to generate maps of the surrounding neighborhood and more detailed reports of data gathered by specific regulatory programs.

The new system clearly demonstrates the value of integrating data gathered by multiple regulatory programs into one easy-to-use, Web-accessible system. In one short session, you can get a clear picture of the major point source polluters in your community—a job that would have taken months just a few years ago. Of course, this ability raises one's expectations. Ideally, the system would also offer information on nonpoint sources of pollution and the fate of pollutants from neighboring communities, as well as providing environmental quality indicators such as ambient air pollution levels. Perhaps we just need to wait another three years.

**[Author Affiliation]**

THOMAS M. PARRIS is the environmental resources librarian at Harvard College Library. Material to be considered for Bytes of Note should be directed to him at the Godfrey Lowell Cabot Science Library, 1 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, or electronically to [tparris@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:tparris@fas.harvard.edu).

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T S1/3,K/ALL

1/3,K/1 (Item 1 from file: 15)

DIALOG(R)File 15:ABI/Inform(R)

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01151061 98-00456

**CERCLA and deep pockets: Market response to the superfund program**

Harper, Richard K; Adams, Stephen C.

Contemporary Economic Policy v14n1 PP: 107-115 Jan 1996

ISSN: 1074-3529 JRNL CODE: CPI

WORD COUNT: 4799

...TEXT: the remainder of the 1980s, several aspects of the program changed. One is that the **EPA** identified the same set of companies as PRPs at relatively many sites. Attorneys suggest that...

...situation in which learning would occur, so that the experience gained at other sites would **permit** a relatively accurate assessment of likely liabilities. Another aspect is that **EPA** PRP searches allegedly have improved over time. Participants in the litigation process note that the PRP notification process may have switched away from a **search** for "deep pocket" PRPs toward a more thorough examination of likely shares of waste contributed...

1/3,K/2 (Item 2 from file: 15)

DIALOG(R)File 15:ABI/Inform(R)

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01100123 97-49517

**A free market approach to environmental protection**

Yandle, Bruce

Vital Speeches of the Day v61n24 PP: 754-757 Oct 1, 1995

ISSN: 0042-742X JRNL CODE: VSP

WORD COUNT: 2989

...TEXT: treatment plants are told that they can pollute within certain limits if they have an **EPA permit**, then each time we get another certified plant we will get more polluted air and...

...approval only when the specified technology is in place, then industry has no incentive to **search** for lower cost technologies and

1/3,K/3 (Item 1 from file: 16)

DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R)

(c) 2005 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

07518967 Supplier Number: 63017998 (USE FORMAT 7 FOR FULLTEXT)

**ENFORCEMENT ACTION.**

Walters, Adam S.

Concrete Products, v103, n5, p24

May, 2000

Language: English Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Magazine/Journal; Trade

Word Count: 1377

... ready-mix plant outside of Buffalo was raided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ( **EPA** ) and various other federal

governmental agencies. Aimed officers executed a **search** warrant looking for evidence that Riefler's truck rinsewater was being discharged in violation of...

...flowed into a creek. Unknown to Riefler, such discharge is illegal without a proper **permit**, Ignorance of the law, however; provides no defense or relief from prosecution.

United States Attorneys...

1/3,K/4 (Item 2 from file: 16)  
DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R)  
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02918137 Supplier Number: 43941614 (USE FORMAT 7 FOR FULLTEXT)  
"EPA ENFORCEMENT MANUAL" & "RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION MANUAL" FROM THOMPSON  
Legal Publisher, v2, n8, pN/A  
July, 1993  
Language: English Record Type: Fulltext  
Document Type: Newsletter; Trade  
Word Count: 220

A subscription to "EPA Enforcement Manual" includes monthly bulletins and updates, special reports and access to a "compliance hotline." Described as the "only comprehensive guide to federal enforcement practices, the "EPA Enforcement Manual" is designed to provide guidance about official procedures and how the target of...

...with sample documents and strategy options. Editorial includes information on dealing with government actions, including **EPA** inspection reports, cease and desist orders, **search** warrants, warning letters, **permit** blocks, notices of violation, field citations, injunctions, debarment notices, administrative orders and subpoenas. The manual...

1/3,K/5 (Item 1 from file: 148)  
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
(c)2005 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

0017384485 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 121714320 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT)  
Analysis of prices in tradable emission markets: an empirical study of the Regional Clean Air Incentives Market in Los Angeles.  
Gangadharan, Lata  
Applied Economics, 36, 14, 1569(14)  
August 10, 2004  
ISSN: 0003-6846 LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: Fulltext  
WORD COUNT: 10105 LINE COUNT: 00926

... they buy from another facility.

Some important policy implications emerge from this study. In 1990, **EPA** estimated that the USA was spending more than \$100 billion annually to comply with Federal...

...is expected to increase in the future. (20) As these expenditures rise, policymakers need to **search** for more effective tools so as to maintain and improve environmental quality in a cost...

...New Jersey. The success of these programs would depend on the institutional structure of the **permit** market created. It is important

therefore for regulators to study the experience of RECLAIM and...

1/3,K/6 (Item 2 from file: 148)  
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
(c)2005 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

15561316 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 98315682 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**EPA pilot-testing Website that shows facility compliance history. (In Brief). (Brief Article)**  
Weirauch, Wendy  
Hydrocarbon Processing, 82, 2, 9(1)  
Feb, 2003  
DOCUMENT TYPE: Brief Article ISSN: 0018-8190 LANGUAGE: English  
RECORD TYPE: Fulltext  
WORD COUNT: 124 LINE COUNT: 00013

TEXT:

**EP** A pilot-testing Website that shows facility compliance history. The site enables users to find **permit**, inspection, violation, enforcement action and penalty information for 800,000 regulated facilities in the U...

...and Compliance History Online (ECHO)--cover the past two years. The integrated site provides a **search** feature for facilities regulated under the Clean Air Act stationary source program, the Clean Water...

...program and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste generation program. Facilities can notify **EPA** of data errors found online by clicking on a "Report Error" ...addition, the agency is accepting comments about the site through March 31. Go to: [www.epa.gov/echo](http://www.epa.gov/echo).

1/3,K/7 (Item 3 from file: 148)  
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
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12281000 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 63017998 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**ENFORCEMENT ACTION.**  
Walters, Adam S.  
Concrete Products, 103, 5, 24  
May, 2000  
ISSN: 0010-5368 LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: Fulltext  
WORD COUNT: 1459 LINE COUNT: 00120

... ready-mix plant outside of Buffalo was raided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ( **EPA** ) and various other federal governmental agencies. Aired officers executed a **search** warrant looking for evidence that Riefler's truck rinsewater was being discharged in violation of...

...flowed into a creek. Unknown to Riefler, such discharge is illegal without a proper **permit**, Ignorance of the law, however; provides no defense or relief from prosecution.

United States Attorneys...

1/3,K/8 (Item 4 from file: 148)  
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
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06409148      SUPPLIER NUMBER: 13540228      (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**Stormwater discharge screening. (Environmental Wastes Control Digest)**  
Billings, Clayton H.  
Public Works, v124, n1, p81(2)  
Jan, 1993  
ISSN: 0033-3840      LANGUAGE: ENGLISH      RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT  
WORD COUNT: 751      LINE COUNT: 00063

## TEXT:

The terms "illicit connection" and "illicit discharge" were made synonymous in the 1991 proposed **EPA** stormwater rules. Illicit connections were defined as point-source discharges that are not composed entirely of stormwater and are not covered by an existing National Pollution Elimination System **permit** and that discharge through a municipal storm sewer system. Despite **EPA** 's emphasis on illicit connections, investigations in Houston, Texas, revealed that most of the city...

...body of water. In March 1991, the Houston Public Utilities Department began to assess the **EPA** 's field screening program. Because the department had been conducting a remediation program to locate...

...Bayou--since March 1989, the city wanted to determine if additional information required by the **EPA** regulation would enhance Houston's program. Houston's remediation program for locating nonstormwater discharges uses...

...the problem. Once a specific section of the storm sewer is identified, a land-based **search** begins. The first step is to collect a benchmark sample, as near to the outfall...

...levels of nutrients, then an intermittent water quality problem is suspected. The results of the **EPA** field screening were similar to the findings of Houston's ongoing remediation program. Detergent and...

...the discharge of pollutants is the next challenge. Given the lack of sensitivity of the **EPA** field screening test kits, and the high probability that most problems result from failure of the infrastructure, Houston recommends: 1) testing should be included among the **EPA** required parameters for screening; 2) given the extensive land area of a large city storm...

1/3,K/9      (Item 5 from file: 148)

DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
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06226261      SUPPLIER NUMBER: 12829221      (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**Administration at the cusp of science: the case of recombinant DNA.**  
**(lawsuits pertaining to effects of scientific experiments on environment)**  
Pletenik, Betty; Cooper, Phillip J.  
Administration & Society, v24, n2, p132(31)  
August, 1992  
ISSN: 0095-3997      LANGUAGE: ENGLISH      RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT  
WORD COUNT: 12760      LINE COUNT: 01026

... proposal to field-test frost-inhibiting bacteria produced by RDNA techniques began a journey in **search** of governmental approval. The University of California had licensed the private firm Advanced Genetic Sciences...

...strawberry plants in Monterey County, California. However, AGS first had

to obtain an experimental use **permit** from the **EPA** . Using its regulatory authority under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the **EPA** required that experiments using microbial pesticides be submitted for review (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1984). The **EPA** would then determine whether or not an experimental use **permit** (EUP) was necessary for testing to begin. The **EPA** concluded that although the AGS field test would require an EUP, it was not likely to pose significant risks, and on November 14, the **EPA** issued permits to AGS. FOET filed suit that same day.

Before Frostban got its chance...

1/3,K/10 (Item 6 from file: 148)

DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
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06105942 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 12490262 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**Storm water discharge: it's raining; it's pouring. (environmental regulations on rainwater runoff) (Legislative Issues) (Column)**  
Calderwood, James A.  
Ceramic Industry, v139, n1, p20(1)  
July, 1992  
DOCUMENT TYPE: Column ISSN: 0009-0220 LANGUAGE: ENGLISH  
RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT  
WORD COUNT: 513 LINE COUNT: 00040

... in advance by EPA.

Now you start searching to see if your state has an **EPA** -approved program. If your plant is located in Pennsylvania or New Jersey, your **search** will reveal that these states are among those with **EPA** -approved plans. The trick is to find out what part of the state government apparatus administers this approved **permit** plan and who in state government knows about it.

Suppose, though, that your plant is...

1/3,K/11 (Item 7 from file: 148)

DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
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05113684 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 10423111 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**The Texas economy: market-based instruments and energy policy.**  
McDonald, Stephen L.; Mohammadioun, Mina  
Texas Business Review, p1(3)  
Feb, 1991  
ISSN: 0040-4209 LANGUAGE: ENGLISH RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT  
WORD COUNT: 1542 LINE COUNT: 00125

... pollution. A target level of emissions would be established by the responsible agency (e.g., **EPA** ) for a given geographical district and time period. Permits totaling this quantity would then by...

...others at mutually agreeable prices between auctions. Every emitter consequently would have an incentive to **search** for ways to reduce emissions: either to save the purchase price of a required **permit** or to earn the selling price of a surplus **permit** . The total level of emissions in the affected district would be limited to the targeted...

1/3,K/12 (Item 8 from file: 148)

DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
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02828408 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 04254420 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**'Big brother' EPA role disturbs some attorneys. (pollution control and right to privacy issues)**  
Greene, Jan  
Footwear News, v42, p36(1)  
May 26, 1986  
ISSN: 0162-914X LANGUAGE: ENGLISH RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT  
WORD COUNT: 412 LINE COUNT: 00033

... handed down last week that gives the Government--in this case, the Environmental Protection Agency ( **EPA** )--the right to inspect corporate property by airplane without a **search permit** .

Attorneys for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce...

1/3,K/13 (Item 9 from file: 148)  
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB  
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02826300 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 04252241 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)  
**Right to aerial search seen eroding privacy. ( EPA's right to aerial search of corporate property without search permit )**  
Greene, Jan  
American Metal Market, v94, p5(2)  
May 23, 1986  
ISSN: 0002-9998 LANGUAGE: ENGLISH RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT  
WORD COUNT: 414 LINE COUNT: 00034

**Right to aerial search seen eroding privacy. ( EPA's right to aerial search of corporate property without search permit )**

1/3,K/14 (Item 1 from file: 160)  
DIALOG(R)File 160:Gale Group PROMT(R)  
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00594531  
**Dollars and cents are figuring more prominently in EPA regulatory proposals.**  
Business Week (Industrial Edition) November 3, 1980 p. 96J1

... botton line. From the 1977 stance of letting industry trade the right to pollute, the **EPA** has progressed to 'banking' concepts that place economic value on not polluting. The agency is...

... s atmosphere. Instead of banning their use as refrigerants in air conditioners and refrigerators, the **EPA** said that it preferred an approach that would regulate the sale of permits. **Permit** holders could then sell rights for whatever the market would bear, supposedly forcing both users and manufacturers to **search** for more economical alternatives. If the concept is successful, the **EPA** could expand its use to communities faced with increased pollution from expanding and incoming industry...  
?

| Set | Items | Description                  |
|-----|-------|------------------------------|
| S1  | 1369  | WASTEWATER (S) PERMIT        |
| S2  | 0     | S1 AND (SERVICE (N) REQUEST) |
| ?   |       |                              |

JS 7-6-05

| Set | Items | Description                                      |
|-----|-------|--|
| S1  | 3     | WASTEWATER (S) TREATMENT (S) PERMIT (S) DATABASE |
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T S1/3,K/ALL

1/3,K/1 (Item 1 from file: 15)

DIALOG(R)File 15:ABI/Inform(R)

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01790991 04-41982

**Quality of land applied biosolids in Pennsylvania**

Stehouwer, Richard; Wolf, Ann

BioCycle v40n3 PP: 44-48 Mar 1999

ISSN: 0276-5055 JRNL CODE: BIO

WORD COUNT: 2142

...TEXT: testing program at Penn State's Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory were collected into an initial database . Second, a list of individual and general permit holders for land application of biosolids was obtained from DEP. This was used to identify wastewater treatment plants not included in the initial database . Analytical records for the biosolids produced at these plants were obtained from the permit files on record at DEP regional offices. The final database consists of 7,746 records of biosolids produced at 177 wastewater treatment plants from 1978 to 1997.

The database records are not evenly distributed among each year...

1/3,K/2 (Item 1 from file: 148)

DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB

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06218852 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 13332180 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)

**Norfolk develops comprehensive stormwater program. (Virginia)**

Kenel, Pamela P.; Mussman, J. Michael; Andrews, Howard O.

Public Works, v123, n10, p44(3)

Sept, 1992

ISSN: 0033-3840 LANGUAGE: ENGLISH RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT

WORD COUNT: 2660 LINE COUNT: 00230

... present at each facility. The Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) is the regional authority for wastewater treatment and disposal. It maintains an extensive database of commercial and industrial facilities discharging to the sanitary sewer system. The HRSD files were...

...inspection priorities and assessing pollutant potential in Part 2 and for the duration of the permit .

After the NPDES permit is issued, the city will be required to continue collecting and...

1/3,K/3 (Item 2 from file: 148)

DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB

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06207922 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 13606024 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)

**Retrofitting Chesapeake Bay plants. (water treatment plants) (Environmental Wastes Control Digest)**

Billings, Clayton H.

Public Works, v123, n12, p98(1)

Nov, 1992

ISSN: 0033-3840 LANGUAGE: ENGLISH RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT

WORD COUNT: 733      LINE COUNT: 00061

TEXT:

...The Maryland Department of the Environment contracted for an engineering evaluation of 24 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, with flows ranging from 0.75 to 200 mgd, to determine feasibility and cost-effectiveness of retrofitting existing facilities to permit biological nutrient removal (BNR) processes. Each plant was screened to determine the BNR process best...

...reduce total phosphorus to 2 mg/L or the level specified in the plant's permit whichever is lower. If nutrient removal goals could not be met using BNR, an alternative...

...presented. Conceptual facility designs were prepared to compare alternative processes. Where available, monitored raw influent wastewater quality data were obtained from each plant and used to establish design concentrations for BOD...

...plant, a thorough site-specific evaluation is needed. Where historical characteristics are not available, a database should be developed. Toxicity should be identified if present and eliminated. The physical configuration of...

?